

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of initiating reverse-link portions of handoffs between a serving base station and a target base station in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, comprising the steps of:
 - a) first receiving, at a subject mobile station, a message from the serving base station directing performance of a handoff to the target base station; and thereafter
 - b) monitoring a first parameter reflective of strength of a signal received by the subject mobile station from the serving base station;
 - c) monitoring a second parameter reflective of strength of a signal received by the subject mobile station from the target base station;
 - d) determining if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and an offset;
 - e) returning to step (b) if the first parameter is not less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and the offset; and
 - f) initiating a reverse link portion of the directed handoff between the serving and target base stations if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and the offset, wherein the reverse link portion of the handoff includes terminating transmissions from the subject mobile station to the serving base station, and initiating transmission from the subject mobile station to the target base station.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the offset is zero.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the offset is based on a Quality of Service (QoS) factor.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the offset is based on a Frame Error Rate (FER) factor.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first parameter is a first E_c/I_o value associated with the serving base station.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the second parameter is a second E_c/I_o value associated with the target base station.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, further comprising steps that precede step (a), including:
 - g) determining whether a current E_c/I_o value of a pilot signal of the target base station is greater than a parameter "T_Add";
 - h) sending a pilot signal measurement message (PSMM) to the serving base station and adding the target base station to a candidate set if the current E_c/I_o value of the target base station pilot signal is greater than the T_Add parameter;
 - i) determining whether the serving base station transmitted an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station; and
 - j) proceeding to step (b) only if, in step (a), the serving base station transmitted an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein step (f) of initiating a reverse link handoff is autonomously performed by the mobile station.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the reverse link handoff is part of an intergenerational soft handoff comprising a forward link soft handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the reverse link handoff is autonomously performed by the subject mobile station.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the reverse link handoff is part of an intergenerational hard handoff comprising a forward link hard handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the handoff is autonomously performed by the mobile station.
13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus in a subject mobile station for initiating reverse-link portions of handoffs between a serving base station and a target base station in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, comprising:

- a) a pilot strength reporting block for sending a pilot strength measurement message (PSMM) to the serving base station when a first signal strength-related parameter associated with the target base station is greater than a threshold parameter "T_Add"; and
- b) a reverse link handoff control block configured to implement a reverse link intergenerational hard handoff when, after the serving base station transmits an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station, a second parameter describing a signal strength-related characteristic of a signal from the serving base station is less than or equal to a sum of a current value of the first parameter and an offset;

wherein the reverse link intergenerational hard handoff comprises a portion of an intergenerational handoff, distinct from a forward link portion, and includes terminating signal transmissions from the mobile station to the serving base station and subsequently initiating signal transmission from the mobile station to the target base station.

- 14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the first parameter is a target base station E_c/I_o .
- 15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the second parameter is a serving base station E_c/I_o .
- 16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the offset is zero.
- 17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the mobile station autonomously performs the reverse link intergenerational hard handoff.
- 18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the reverse-link handoff between the serving and target base stations is part of an intergenerational soft handoff comprising a forward link soft handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.
- 19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the mobile station autonomously determines timing of completion of the handoff based on measurements made by the mobile station.
- 20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the reverse-link handoff between the serving and target base stations is part of an intergenerational hard handoff comprising a forward link hard handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.
- 21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the mobile station autonomously determines timing of completion of the handoff based on measurements made by the mobile station.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program executable on a computing device, wherein the program is capable of directing performance of a reverse link handoff between a serving base station and a target base station that has been directed by a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, comprising:
- a) a first set of instructions for monitoring, after the subject mobile station has been directed to initiate the handoff to the target base station, a first signal strength-related parameter reflective of a signal received by the subject mobile station from the serving base station;
 - b) a second set of instructions for monitoring, after the subject mobile station has been directed to initiate the handoff to the target base station, a second signal strength-related parameter reflective of a signal received by the subject mobile station from the target base station;
 - c) a third set of instructions for determining if the first parameter is less than or equal to a sum of the second parameter and an offset; and
 - d) a fourth set of instructions for initiating the reverse link handoff between the serving and target base stations if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and the offset; wherein the reverse link handoff comprises a reverse link portion of a complete handoff, and wherein the reverse link portion includes terminating signal transmissions from the mobile station to the serving base station and subsequently initiating signal transmission from the mobile station to the target base station, and wherein the reverse link portion is distinct from a forward link portion of the complete handoff.
23. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling completion of a handoff between a serving base station and a target base station in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, comprising:
- a) first receiving, at a subject mobile station, a message from the serving base station directing performance of a handoff to the target base station; and thereafter
 - b) monitoring a first signal strength-related parameter reflective of a signal received by the subject mobile station from the serving base station;
 - c) monitoring a second signal strength-related parameter reflective of a signal received by the subject mobile station from the target base station;

- d) comparing current values of the first parameter to corresponding values of the second parameter;
- e) returning to step (b) if a current value of the first parameter ~~does~~ is not less than a sum of an offset plus satisfy a selected relationship to a corresponding current value of the second parameter; and
- f) initiating a reverse link portion of the handoff between the serving and target base stations if the current value of the first parameter is less than a sum of an offset plus satisfies the selected relationship ~~to~~ the corresponding current value of the second parameter;

wherein the reverse link portion of the handoff includes terminating signal transmissions from the mobile station to the serving base station and subsequently initiating signal transmission from the mobile station to the target base station, and wherein the reverse link portion is distinct from a forward link portion of the handoff.

- 24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein the first and second parameters reflect pilot signal strengths, ~~and the selected relationship is satisfied when the second parameter exceeds the first parameter.~~
- 25. (Canceled) ~~The method of Claim 24, wherein the first and second parameters reflect pilot signal strengths, and the selected relationship is satisfied when the second parameter exceeds a sum of the first parameter and an offset.~~
- 26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 24-25, wherein the offset is based on a difference in symbol detection efficiency between the serving and target base stations.